

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Kevin K. McAleenan
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Mark Esper
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretaries Pompeo, Azar, McAleenan, and Esper:

As the administration prepares to set the Presidential Determination (PD) on refugee admissions for fiscal year 2020, the undersigned 172 organizations urge the United States to continue to be a beacon of hope and freedom for all people fleeing displacement and persecution by setting a minimum PD of 95,000. We are dismayed by recent reports that the PD may be set to zero, or again significantly lowered, for fiscal year 2020. Such a decision would mean turning our backs on nearly 40,000 refugees who have already been vetted by the U.S. government and approved for resettlement, and continuing to dismantle decades of commitment to the U.S. resettlement program.

Since the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) was formally established in 1980, the U.S. has proudly resettled over three million refugees. Welcoming refugees has enhanced our local

economies and communities, strengthened our foreign policy, and bolstered our standing in the world as a leader for freedom.

U.S. refugee resettlement also serves as a foreign policy and diplomatic tool. The number of refugees the U.S. is willing to resettle has a direct impact on the number of refugees other host countries are willing to support, and the United Nations estimates that over one million refugees are in immediate need of resettlement around the world. Further reducing the PD would demonstrate clearly that refugee protection is no longer a priority to the U.S., and would send that message to the rest of the international community. We are extremely concerned by this, and long-term impact that setting a PD of zero will have. We urge sensible and strategic instincts to prevail.

Resettlement is a core American legacy that allows refugees to rebuild their lives. The U.S. has the capacity and ability to resettle at least 95,000 refugees next fiscal year. That number represents less than one half of one percent of the total number of displaced individuals and refugees worldwide. While the number is a fraction of those in need, this level of generosity has a huge impact around the world and in local U.S. communities. We ask that you do all you can to ensure the U.S. resettle at least 95,000 refugees in fiscal year 2020.

Sincerely,

Acculturation for Justice, Access and Peace Outreach (AJAPO)

Action Against Hunger

Adhikaar

Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation

Agency for New Americans, A Program of Jannus, Inc

AIRS

Alianza Americas

Alliance For African Assistance

Alliance Health Clinic

Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST)

American Immigration Lawyers Association

American Jewish World Service

American Relief Coalition for Syria

Amnesty International USA

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

Asylum Access

AsylumConnect

Bethany Christian Services
Canopy NWA
Capital Area New Mainers Project
CARE USA
Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency
Catholic Relief Services Team
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Center for Victims of Torture
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice
Church World Service
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS)
Conference of Superiors of Men (Catholic)
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries
Dominican Literacy Center, Aurora
Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island
Embrace Relief
End Domestic Abuse WI
Episcopal Church of the Mediator Refugee Community Center
Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.
Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services
Faith in Public Life
First Parish Portland
Food for the Hungry
Franciscan Action Network
Freedom for Immigrants
Freedom House Detroit
Freedom Network USA
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Global Labor Justice
Global Village
Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services
HEAL Trafficking
Heartland Alliance
Helping Hand for Relief and Development
HIAS
HIAS Pennsylvania

Hispanic Federation
Holy Trinity Catholic Parish Social Justice Committee
Human Rights Campaign
IILA
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Inspiritus
InterAction
International Center of Kentucky
International House of Metrolina, Inc.
International Institute of Buffalo
International Institute of New England
International Institute of St. Louis
International Medical Corps
International Refugee Assistance Project
International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Iraqi Community association in Maine
Islamic Relief USA
J Street
Jesuit Refugee Service, USA
Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay
Jewish Family and Community Services of Pittsburgh
Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County
Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Family Service of Seattle
Jewish Family Service of Western MA
Jewish Family Services of Delaware
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Just Foreign Policy
Justice for Our Neighbors Michigan
Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Commission of The Sisters of Saint Francis
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame
La Maestra Community Health Centers
Ladder to the Moon Network
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)

Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Lutheran Services Carolinas
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
Maine Business Immigration Coalition
Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence
Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition
Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network
Maine Women's Lobby
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mental Health America of the MidSouth
Mercy Corps
Missouri Immigrant & Refugee Advocates (MIRA)
Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
MoveOn
Multifaith Alliance for Syrian Refugees
National Association of Evangelicals
National Association of Social Workers
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Immigration Law Center
National Justice for Our Neighbors
Nationalities Service Center
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Northern Nevada International Center
Norwegian Refugee Council, USA
Notre Dame Initiative for Global Development
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition
Only Through US
Oxfam America
Pax Christi Seed Planters, Illinois
Power In Community Alliances (PICA)
Project Worthmore
Refugee Empowerment Center
RefugeeOne
Refugees International
RefugePoint

Restore NYC
Save the Children
Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet of California
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon
St Paul's Episcopal Church
St. Louis Mosaic Project
St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Garrison
St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, College Station, TX
Tahirih Justice Center
The Alliance for African Assistance
The America Team for Displaced Eritreans
The Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
The Carolina Survivor Clinic
The Episcopal Church
The Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago, Inc.
The Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center
The Reformed Church of Highland Park
The Refugee Center
The Tibetan Community of New York and New Jersey Inc.
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
Trickle Up
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United Mission for Relief and Development
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services
University YMCA New American Welcome Center
US Together, Inc.
USCRI Des Moines
Welcoming City
Welcoming the Stranger
Win Without War
Women's Refugee Commission
World Relief

Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
YWCA Missoula
YWCA NH